Side Effect of Menitholated Sweets on Children

2979. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mentholated sweets have been causing drowsiness and some sort of addiction over their long and continued use amongst children; and

(b) whether it is a fact that several mentholated sweets are being regularly advertised over T.V. leading to their use by impressionable children and if so, remedial steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to the report of World Health Organisation consumption of mentholated sweets by children over a period of time does not lead to addiction and does not cause adverse effects.

(b) Advertisements are not covered by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Laws. According to information furnished by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting mentholated sweets are not highlighted in the advertisements Sweets on Television.

Complaints against Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Limited

2980. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against the members of the Board of Directors including the out-going Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes. The allegations, based mainly on the newspaper Reports, have been brought to our notice.

Certain newspapers had published reports and offered criticism on the performance of Cochin Shipyard Limited. Excess procurement|storage of pipes in C.S.L. was adversely commented upon in the Press. A Committee has been formed by C&MD to enuiqre into and Report about this.

A writ petition has also been filed in the High Court of Kerala by one Shri T. N. Chandran Nair, President, Citizens Forum of Social Justice impleading Government of India, Cochin Shipyard Limited and Shri D. Jayachandran formerly C.&M.D. as respondents and praying for the issue of Writ of Mandamus to Central Government to constitute a Commission of Inquiry into certain allegations levelled against the C.&M.D. No order has so far been passed by the High Court and the matter is *sub judice*.

Harassment of lady teachers

2981. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received recently some representations from Members of Parliament regarding harassment of lady teachers by some local vagabonds in Lilua, Howrah for not giving admission to some children in railway schools; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to give protection to the lady teachers of this area from these bad elements?